

MEMORANDUM

June 22, 2017

TO: Jeremy Gunn, Douglas P. Horne

cc: Laura Denk, Kevin Tiernan

FROM: Manuel E. Legaspi

SUBJECT: Current Status of JFK Assassination Records at the National Security Agency (NSA)

On Friday, 25 Jul 1997 at 1030 ARRB representatives Jeremy Gunn, Douglas P. Horne, Christopher M. Barger, and Manuel E. Legaspi met with three representatives of the National Security Agency (NSA) at Ft. George Meade, MD to discuss the handling of NSA records related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. This memorandum will list and track the current status of these documents and will act as a baseline for future tracking.

NSA indicated that they have identified a total of 267 assassination-related documents that require processing under the JFK Act. The tracking of these documents can be broken down as follows:

NSA released 38 documents to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) for placement in the JFK Assassination Collection in August 1993.

NSA stated that they sent 28 documents found in their files and originated by other federal agencies to the ARRB in December 1996. NSA had no objection to the eventual release of these documents but indicated that coordination with the originating agencies was needed before they could be sent to NARA. ARRB (Wray) agreed to take responsibility for coordinating referrals. However, ARRB has confirmed that it has never taken custody of these documents, and has not transferred any documents to any other federal agencies.

NSA forwarded 87 documents to the ARRB in Spring 1997. Following an examination of these records, the Review Board agreed to approve the documents provided that suggested changes to substitute language and some redactions were implemented by the NSA. (One document was removed from this batch and is currently being "reconsidered", and another needs to be referred to the FBI JFK Task Force (p.o.c.: Debbie Beatty). This brings the total number of documents meeting board approval in this batch to 85.) The original, unredacted versions of these records are currently being processed by ARRB for final delivery to NARA. Additionally, the ARRB is in possession of blue-highlighted, working copies of these documents which will be returned to NSA once this batch is officially received by NARA.

NSA forwarded 49 documents to the ARRB which were voted on by the Review Board in March 1997, 32 of which were consent releases, and 17 of which represented "Green" documents (which allowed for the continued protection of "routine" redactions). These documents have downgraded to FOUO and are currently being processed by ARRB for eventual delivery to NARA. (ARRB completion of this processing task is contingent upon the delivery of computer disks containing RIF information for four of these documents from NSA.)

NSA is now processing 63 additional records which will eventually be delivered to the ARRB staff. It is ARRB's understanding that these records came from the following collections/offices:

- Legislative Affairs Office (LAO);
- Office of General Counsel, and
- the Lee Harvey Oswald file from NSA Archives.

In addition to the issues surrounding the eventual review of these 267 documents, the following items were also discussed:

NSA is in the possession of two documents which do not deal with the assassination but may provide possible leads for other assassination-related NSA records. ARRB will review these documents for relevance and memorialize the relevant portions in memorandum form.

NSA has returned, to the FBI via the ARRB, approximately 24 FBI-originated documents that it had reviewed for equities. (ARRB is checking (Tiernan, Denk) about the status of these documents). (NSA is currently retaining one document from this collection.)

- In addition, ARRB staff indicated a need for the NSA to coordinate the eventual review of documents containing their equities currently held by the JFK Task Force at the FBI. The JFK Task Force (p.o.c.: Beatty) has plans to coordinate documents of this type with the NSA once a sufficient number of documents are identified by the FBI. ARRB is also in possession of “working copies” of FBI-originated documents that contain NSA equities. These documents are not part of this batch of 24.

NSA has reviewed and returned to the CIA numerous documents which they received from the John F. Kennedy Library. Most of these records dealt with the Cuban Missile Crisis, and their relevance to the J.F. Kennedy assassination is still unclear.

NSA has not been successful in their search for the Cuba-related boxes initially identified by Jeremy Gunn.